

PROFILE

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Education

ERIC JACKSON IS CONTRIBUTING TO THE FUTURE

For Eric Jackson, principal at he Bloomington Graduation School, graduate student, husband, and father of four, instilling the values he learned about education in his youth, *is* his way of giving back.

The Commission on the Status of Black Males spoke with Jackson about his chosen career path and ways to support the youth in our community.

Jackson suggested that his path as an educator was predetermined. “I don’t believe I chose to be an educator, I believe education chose me.” As a student in Indianapolis, Jackson recalls struggling in school to the degree that he thought about giving up. He attributed his family and his community for helping him succeed. “The expectations in my family and my community was that I would attend college, and be prepared to give back.” After completing high school, Jackson would go on to earn Associate, Bachelor, and Masters Degrees. He is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in Educational Leadership at Indiana State University.

As an educator Jackson holds high expectations for his students. “I believe the best way to contribute to the future is being apart of students growth process. What better way than education.”

For the former teacher, and now administrator, he stresses the importance of students receiving the opportunity of learning soft skills in order to gain workplace success. “Students have to learn how to work with a diverse group of people, and still accomplish what needs to be done. Teaching students how to resolve issues, communicate clearly, and show concern for others will prepare them for the future.”

Jackson believes that it is vital for Black Males to be exposed to professional environments. “The community can support Black Males by helping them understand how to add value to themselves, by teaching them how to dress for the job they want and how to communicate and network with other professionals.”



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